

MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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NO. 4.



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

QUERIES ON PEAT AND MUCK LANDS.

A correspondent from Windham writes to us as follows:

"I should like to hear or see a treatise on muck lands—the chemical properties, &c.—the best method of preventing the worms from destroying the grass roots—remedy for the drought affecting this kind of soil.

I have wished many times that I knew what it was in this muck that puckered the hands so when I have handled it, making them much the same as wet ashes would."

In answer to our friend, we would say, that we, too, should like to hear or see such a treatise as he desires. It has never yet been written, and will not be, until there shall be more research into these things, both by the practical man and the chemist. Dana's Muck Manual is a good work for teaching the best mode of converting muck, or peat, into manure, and as far as that is concerned, is a valuable work; but the work, treating of all the forms, characters and conditions of muck and peat lands—best mode of cultivating and managing, &c., and in all their varieties and situations, has never been written, and cannot be, as it ought, until much more knowledge is obtained concerning them."

It is possible the "puckering" of the hands, that our friend speaks of, when handling muck, may be owing to acid, or acids, in it; although we cannot say this with any certainty.

We have seen some mucks that contained water holding a small quantity of astringent matter in solution, like a weak tan liquor. This was probably inhibited from some decomposing vegetables, or roots, that contained astringent matter.

"DON'T PERMIT YOUR CATTLE A FREE USE OF SALT."

So says a writer in one of our Agricultural exchanges. But, perhaps, reader, do you ever know a domestic animal—horse, cow, or sheep, to be injured by the free and unrestricted access to this invaluable mineral? We know not.

It is true, salt is essential to the health of most animals, and the following curious fact, which we abridge from "Parker's treatise on salt," abundantly prove the fact. It is there stated that an individual who kept some dozen or more farm-horses, instituted an experiment with a part of them which had been accustomed to have salt regularly supplied with their food. Several lumps of rock-salt were deposited in the mangers of these animals, and having been previously weighed, were subjected to a critical examination every week, in order that the exact quantity consumed by each might be accurately ascertained. The result was as follows:—

When kept on old hay and corn, from two and a half, to three ounces of salt were consumed daily by each horse; but when fed on new hay, then devoured six ounces per day.

"Reasoning after every step he reads, 'Man yet mistaken he was, 'While madder things, when, instinct leads, 'Are rarely known to stray.'"

In the course of many years' experience in cattle tending, we have never been aware of any, not even the slightest injury to result from granting free access to the salt trough at any season. We make it a practice constantly to supply our troughs, which are under a shed, open at all times to our cattle, both winter and summer.

PRESERVE THE BIRDS.

We are aware that against certain kinds of birds, there exists a very strong prejudice in the minds of our farming friends, and more especially perhaps, against the crow, whose usefulness in destroying bugs, worms, and other vermin which prey so voraciously on the incipient crops of the farmer, far more than counterbalances all the injury he commits. It has been estimated by some ornithologists, that one of these birds requires about three hundred of the above for its daily support. These, after the season of hatching, the crows make in and extracts from the ground; their pestiferous depredations on plants, particularly on corn, commencing almost simultaneously with the cessation of his. Let a more liberal policy be adopted in our treatment and appreciation of these useful co-workers. Shall it not be so?

CHOKING. Neat cattle, fed on apples or potatoes, are very liable to get choked, and many a valuable animal has been lost from not knowing how to afford relief in time to save life. The following remedy is therefore published, with the fullest and most confident reliance in its efficacy.

As soon as an animal is found to be choking, pour into the mouth, from a bottle, a pint of oil, rubbing the throat externally at the same time, with the hand. A friend who, by the way, is a skillful veterinarian, assures us he has never known this remedy fail, and that the relief afforded is almost instantaneous. The oil lubricates the gullet, and facilitates the ejection of the obstructing substance, without the slightest pain. If oil is not immediately attainable, soap and water may sometimes be substituted with equal success.

METHOD OF OBTAINING THE FIGURE OF A PLANT.

A piece of paper is to be rubbed with powdered dragon's blood, in the branch or leaf of which the design is required, is to be laid upon it. By means of slight friction it soon takes up a small quantity of the powder, and being then laid on uncolored paper, an impression is taken in the manner practiced for lithography without a machine.

REPORT ON NURSERIES, COMPOST MANURE, &c.

The Committee on Nurseries, Compost Manure, &c., ask leave to Report:

Three entries were made for the Society's premium on Nurseries; one by D. & S. N. Taber, of Vassalboro'; one by R. G. Lincoln, of Hallowell; one by Daniel Craig, of Readfield.

The Nursery of D. & S. N. Taber, of Vassalboro', has once before been reported to this Society and received her premium. Yet, when it is believed that their Nursery is not only the largest, the oldest and most valuable of any other, but that it has since augmented in size and variety of trees, your Committee award it the first premium.

The Nursery of Mr. R. G. Lincoln was deemed worthy the second premium, and your Committee (Mr. Lincoln aside) so award.

Mr. Craig has commenced a respectable nursery, a statement of which is herewith submitted, with a recommendation that it be published with this Report and other statements.

There was but one entry on Compost Manure made this year, and that was by Daniel Craig, of Readfield, to whom your Committee award the Society's first premium.

Respectfully submitted,
R. G. LINCOLN, Per Order.

Mr. Lincoln's Statement.

Hallowell, Jan. 1847.
To the Committee of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, on Nurseries:

GENTLEMEN: I would call your attention to the following described Nursery, planted and raised by me in this village.

I have set in my Nursery during the last year about three thousand grafted and budded "Fruit Trees," comprising an extensive variety of the most desirable kinds; almost all of which I have grown from seeds or stocks, all of which are in a thrifty condition, and a large part of them are large enough for the market.

Besides the above I have an extensive assortment of foreign ornamental trees, shrubbery, herbaceous roots, &c. Also several thousands of stocks which will be large enough to graft or bud next season, and about two thousand apple stocks, headed in, in my store cellar, which I propose to graft during the winter to add to my nursery next spring. I have planted the past fall about one-fourth of an acre of apple, pear, European ash and Quince seeds, and a quantity of beech nuts for hedge. I prepare my ground, into which I plant my trees after budding or grafting, by digging it all over with the spade, to the depth of two feet at least, and much of it is three feet, removing all the stones larger than a hen's egg, and leaving the surface as nearly level as it can be conveniently. It is made rich by adding manure from the stable and coal ashes from the Cotton Factory.

Trees set in this preparation of soil not unfrequently make a growth in one season of four and a half to five feet.

I usually graft or bud my trees in the nursery where they were first planted, without moving them from their primeval bed (except such as I graft in the winter) until they have had one year's growth; after that operation, I then take them up carefully, trim well their roots, and put them in my general Nursery, in rows four feet apart, where in two years they will be large enough for the market.

Respectfully yours,
R. G. LINCOLN.

Report of Committee on Crops.

There were entered for Premiums, the following Crops, to wit:—Ruta Baga turnips, two; flat English, do; one; carrots, two; pumpkins, two; oats and peas, one; potatoes, two; corn, two.

The competitors are: Moses Taber, Vassalboro'; John D. Lang, do.; Ezekiel Small, do.; S. N. Watson, Fayette; John Kezer, Winthrop; Daniel Craig, Readfield; to whom premiums are awarded by your committee.

Moses Taber,—first on 1-2 acre ruta baga turnips; first on do., English flat do.; first on do., pumpkins; first on do., oats and peas; second on do., potatoes.

S. N. Watson, first on 1-2 acre ruta baga turnips.

John D. Lang, first on carrots.

John Kezer, second on carrots; second on pumpkins.

Daniel Craig, first on potatoes; second on corn.

Ezekiel Small, first on corn.

The Committee do not think it important to accompany their report with many remarks, as the several statements of the competitors will be published. We hope, however, that our successors may have a more difficult task to perform next year, by finding a larger number of competitors on the crop list.

Kennebec County should have next year at least one hundred zealous competitors for premiums, on our various crops. Such competitors would be only worthy of herself.

R. G. LINCOLN, Per Order.

THE TWO HARDEST AND MOST PROFITABLE APPLIES.

A writer over the signature of J. B. H., asks the Editor of the Horticulturist what are the two hardest and most profitable applies?

To this question the Editor says—Baldwin and Rhode Island Greening. To this we would add another query—Are the Baldwins more hardy or more profitable than the Roxbury Russet?

We suppose each tree to be placed in the position most congenial to its nature. If we were to choose three for the most hardy and profitable, we should say, Roxbury Russet, Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin.

BLOODED CATTLE. For cattle in this condition, a dose of thoroughwort with a little tannin, will afford speedy relief. It should be given warm. If one dose is not enough, administer a second, and let the animal be driven about the yard till relieved.

ADDRESS.

Delivered at the first Cattle Show and Fair held by the Agricultural Society of Aroostook County, 14th and 15th Oct., '46.

BY ISAAC W. TABOR, ESQ. OF BOULTON.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE AROOSTOOK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

We have met on this occasion for the promotion of an object of interest to us all. The prejudice of sects, the animosity of parties, the spirit of conflicting interests and opinions, can have no admission here. The organization of the Aroostook County Agricultural Society, evincing as it does, a proper and general appreciation of those important objects, for the promotion of which it is designed, is certainly a legitimate subject of mutual congratulation. It seems to indicate a growing and determined purpose, that we will, at least, no longer import from other sections of our country such productions as industry, skill and perseverance will enable us to produce at home. If our climate is distinguished from other portions of New England by the greater length and asperity of our winters, so are the fertility, the fecundity, and the beautiful and level service of our soil equally distinguished. And if it be a question, whether the comparative disadvantages of our climate are not more than counterbalanced by the excellence of our soil, we have the satisfaction to believe it is one in which the weight of unbiased opinion would preponderate in favor of Aroostook County.

It will be found, on examination and fair experiment, that there are none of the essentials of a comfortable and happy subsistence which our soil and climate is incapable of producing; and a just observation will sustain us in the assertion, that the far greater portion of the censures and denunciations which we have heard uttered by the uneasy and discontented part of our community against our soil and our seasons, would have been much more fairly applied to their own careless and negligent manner of cultivating the one and improving the other. True, there are some trifling luxuries and conveniences produced in other parts of New England to which our climate is not adapted. What then? Shall a country so well fitted to the production of all the substantial of life be abandoned and be permitted to revert to its primitive wilderness—the labor expended in the partial development of its resources lost, and the march of improvement stopped? For what? Merely because we cannot raise peaches and melons like Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Does the proverbially "happy New England" owe that enviable and just appellation to the capacity of her soil and climate to produce anything which we cannot or do not desire to produce? Is it the robust and fine physical organization and industrious habits of her sons?—a gift vouchsafed, and a necessity imposed by her hardy and salubrious climate, in both of which nature seems most kindly to have conspired to the good of her children. It is industry, activity, employment, which develops the physical and mental energies of man; but men will not be active nor industrious, unless the circumstances under which they are placed first impose on them the necessity of being so. By comparing the moral condition of the inhabitants of those portions of our globe, apparently most favored by nature, with that of those who inhabit the bare and less fertile portions of its surface, the truth of these propositions will at once be demonstrated. Should it not, then, rather become the subject of congratulation than condemnation, that our lot has been cast in a territory possessing a soil and climate, which by geography, history and philosophy prove to be best calculated to raise the standard of happiness and elevate the moral condition of man? If there was a time when agriculture, as a pursuit, was considered degrading and debasing, thanks to the progress of enlightened opinion, that time has now past. If there was a time when it was the commonly received opinion that agriculture was entirely unconnected with science, and that it was no matter how illiterate and idiotic those might be, whose lot it was to perform the more mechanical drudgery of this pursuit, this is also numbered among the obsolete opinions of past generations. When, by common consent, some degree of learning was considered necessary to qualify a young man for every pursuit, save that of tilling the soil, it was not only natural that this occupation should have been deemed ignoble and vile, but another consequence resulted from it just as naturally; and this was, that the soil repaid the ill-applied exertions of the ignorant hand who attempted to cultivate it, with a parsimony corresponding to that which had characterized the cultivation of their own minds.

That a great and salutary change has pervaded the agricultural community within a few past years, is as apparent as it is pleasing to every philanthropist. It is now conceded that agriculture is a science, or rather a profession, to the advantageous pursuit of which, science is necessary. The geologist and the chemist have already made and are still making their respective sciences subservient to the development of the resources of the soil. By the assistance of chemical analysis, man has been enabled to discover the adaptation of certain soils to the growth and production of certain vegetables, and in like manner, by the analysis of vegetables, he has been able to ascertain what properties of the soil have been exhausted by their production, and to apply the necessary ingredients to recruit and renovate it for renewed effort. The farmer who chooses to avail himself of the light which science has shed upon his path, will justly be regarded as a practical chemist, profiting by the facts which experiments have already established, while he is still in his laboratory, further unloosing, with the key of science, the sublime mysteries of nature, and contributing, in common with his co-laborers, to the perfecting of this noble pursuit, which we have every reason to believe, is yet in comparative infancy.

For the furtherance of this cause we have united ourselves into a society for the purpose of imparting to, and receiving from each other, such knowledge and instruction as we may individually gain by investigation and experiment. The utility of similar societies has long been recognized, both in this country and in Europe, and their benefits, it is believed, were never more generally acknowledged than at the present time, and I may safely add, perhaps, that the salutary influence of such a society were never more required than in the present place. To test a fact in agriculture by an experiment, requires at least one year, and it very often happens, by some unforeseen casualty, that two or even three or more years may transpire before a given experiment can be fairly tried. It follows, then, that if the knowledge of each individual were confined to facts, gleaned from his own experience alone, his stock of information would be circumscribed indeed. And even if he add to this the traditional knowledge which may be supposed to come down from father to son, through the doubtful channels of oral instruction, he must still remain in comparative ignorance. Yet strange as it may seem to us, the time when the means of agricultural information and improvement were little better than restricted to these sources, is even now within the memory of many; and many there are now present whose memory extends back to that period when newspapers and societies, to promote the interests of man's primitive occupation, were scarcely heard of in this country. Within the last few years the scene has changed. In every portion of our country societies have been formed and are still multiplying. Magazines, pamphlets and newspapers are everywhere springing to life, and daily acquiring a wider and broader circulation. Through these channels intelligence is universally disseminated. If an individual, living in the most remote and isolated portion of our Union, has discovered or invented any thing of importance to the cause of agriculture—if he has found some new material for fertilizing a worn out or naturally sterile soil, or a new and better method of applying or making the most of an old one—if he has made an improvement in the breed, or the method of breeding animals, in the manner of sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting or preserving his crop—has he improved an old or invented a new implement of husbandry, by which the amount of labor may be diminished and the profits enhanced—has he discovered a preventive or cure for any of the diseases common among our domestic animals, or a way by which he may protect our growing crops from the rust, blight and mildew, to which they are subject, and successfully meet and ward off the attacks of mischievous insects by which they are liable to be assailed—has he discovered a hitherto unknown and peculiar adaptation of certain vegetables or fruits to certain soils—in short, if he has made any discovery which can, either directly or remotely, subserve the interests of agriculture, his brethren throughout, and even in the very opposite extremes of our country, are immediately put in possession of this newly acquired knowledge, with all the necessary particulars for its practical application as effectively as if the discovery or invention had been made by themselves or their immediate neighbors. And for this speedy and certain diffusion of information we are indebted to Agricultural societies, and papers upon that subject, which have been created and are sustained by their influence. And not only are we enabled by these means to avail ourselves of the advantages of every improvement made in our own country, but those of every foreign country may be communicated to us through the same channels. And though these facilities for the general diffusion and mutual interchange of facts and theories exist already in great perfection, they are every day becoming still more perfect. It is true that the numerous benefits we derive from the free circulation of agricultural newspapers are not entirely unalloyed by a greater or less amount of evil. It must be admitted that these publications very often contain crude and illy digested theories, exaggerated, if not entirely fictitious statements, wild and extravagant calculations, besides very many of the actual improvements of which we have found an account, may be and often are, of local application, suited only to certain soils, or made in reference to certain markets, or peculiar facilities for transportation, and in no way adapted to the circumstances of the reader. Still they are the vehicles of general, as well as local improvements, of sound and practical, as well as visionary and crude theories, and all things considered, there can be no doubt of the utility of their general circulation. If our farmers in this country feel at present unable to incur the expense of a weekly paper, let them, at least, subscribe for some one of the monthly papers devoted to the subject of agriculture, and which may be procured for the small sum of fifty cents a year. Is there a family depending for a livelihood upon this occupation, who would not derive this amount of good from a well conducted paper, devoted to the interests of his profession? It is believed that the friends of improvement cannot do a greater service to the cause than to use their influence to induce every farmer to take and read some agricultural journal. And although he may have something to do to separate the wheat from the chaff of its contents, he will, at least, doubly remunerate himself for its price, if he make a prudent use of even a tyne of the valuable hints and sound information it contains.

But however numerous and important may have been the advantages to agriculture which the application of science and the general diffusion of knowledge have effected, there is still one grand requisite to its successful pursuit which neither of these will ever be able to supersede. I mean perseverance and industry. No skill, however great, or no plans, however excellent, can dispense with this. That milliner being who is said to select an idle brain for his work-shop, should be permitted to have no comments of this description in the community of farmers. Nor is it corporeal activity alone upon which the farmer should rely; for now that successful farming has become identified with science, the mind, also, has important functions to discharge. The farmer should read and study, as well as work with his hands. And here it may not be deemed inappropriate to remark, that, since agriculture, as a pursuit, has become so closely allied to science, and has assumed that dignified station to which it is so evidently entitled, a care and attention corresponding with this change, should be given to the education of farmers' sons who are designed to succeed them in this dignified employment. Let it no longer be an apology for keeping our youth from the schools, that they will have learning enough for farmers. Nay; let the converse of this miserable proposition prevail, and say that our children must have peculiar attention paid to their education because they are designed for farmers. It is true, we are, comparatively, but pioneers in this country, and as such, labor under numerous disadvantages in this particular, but a just appreciation of its importance is the first step in the amelioration of the evil.

As a community, this county is at present principally, and must eventually become almost entirely dependent upon its agricultural productions. And in point of capacity, to sustain a population by this interest, it is not exceeded by any adjoining territory, of equal extent, in New England. We can produce all the small grains with more ease and in greater abundance than they can be produced in any other section of New England. And although we do not at present, on an average of seasons, succeed with Indian corn, there are two considerations which go far to remove this objection, the one, that wheat is an excellent substitute—the other, that there is little doubt, when our county becomes more generally divested of its primitive growth, such an amelioration of the climate will be effected, as will render corn a safe crop, upon any, excepting our very lowest and most frosty lands. As another consideration, hardly able to be produced in the country open, along the whole line of our extended coast, with the unrivaled potatoes of the East. You may deem this picture a little imaginative, but there are those who now hear me, that will realize its fulfillment. There is much to hope in the future prospects of the farmers of this county, and though a series of misfortunes have befallen our crops for a few past years, not by any means necessary or even peculiar disadvantages of our climate, there is a reward in store for those who do not let these things move them. To young men, who have good sense enough to appreciate the advantages of a pursuit, which holds out a sure guaranty of independence and competency, this country possesses peculiar inducements. Let twenty young men of proper and industrious habits now settle upon lands in this county, and an equal number of like good habits at the same time repair to any of our cities, with a view to obtain employment as merchants' clerks, or in some other manner which they may think more dignified and genteel than the drudgery of the farm. Look at those two classes of young men, twenty years hence, and what will then be their comparative situation? Perhaps one, among the city adventurers, may have become wealthy—two or three may be in the enjoyment of a decent competency—the others have either fallen victims to the contagious influence of gaming, idleness and debauchery, or been overwhelmed and ruined by the numerous revolutions inseparably incident to commerce—while the other class, less exposed to the allurements of vice, are pursuing the even tenor of their way, and probably, with two or three exceptions, would be found in the contented enjoyment of a competency which the troubled waters of commercial strife could neither overwhelm, or drown. Again let us slightly waive this view, and suppose that the twenty young men, instead of repairing to some commercial mart, go to the great, far famed and boasted West, and see twenty years hence how many of them have fallen victims to the diseases of the climate, and contributed their flesh and bones to enrich their already fertile prairies. Heaven has provided no place on earth, to which man does not make some objection; but Aroostook County, though in truth it has some faults, will yet be the Banner Agricultural County of Maine. We are now but beginning to develop its resources. By forming ourselves into a society and body corporate, we have, as it were, spoken into existence a new being, who steps forward and assumes the guardian care of the agricultural interest of this county. To your careful hands it is now committed—a mere banding, in swaddling clothes. Let it be nursed with an assiduity and attention which its importance demands.

STALL FEEDING CATTLE.

MR. EDITOR:—There is no way in which plain farmers can receive so much information as in frequent intercourse with one and another, by comparing notes as to crops, the quantity of manure applied to the acre to bring about certain results, also the best mode of feeding cattle in winter, the kind of food that will fatten most rapidly, and a great many little things only to be learned from practical farmers themselves. This at least is the opinion of some of the best farmers of this village, and as they think they have something to learn from one another at home, they would be glad to hear from the farmers from the neighborhood, and to invite them to let them hear from them.

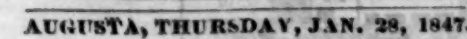
We give below the weight of eight pairs Cattle, weighed on the 26th December, and we propose giving their weight again in one month from that date, viz. 26th of January, allowing the gain in that time, and if this calls out an exhibit of weight from others, we may be tempted to discuss the subject of stall feeding as we understand it, and if other farmers make greater weight in the same time, we should be glad to hear of their plan of feeding, and thus bring to our view what we suggested in the commencement of this article, the getting of information from one and another. The weight of the Cattle

here. But another answer to this objection is, that it is premature, and to take it at this time, (if a homely phrase may be pardoned), is too much like borrowing trouble. Our county has yet never produced a surplus for exportation, nor have we as yet been able to supply the home market which other important interests have created. This has not resulted from any incapacity of our soil, but from the comparatively few persons who have paid their undivided attention to its cultivation. But let us travel into the future, and give this objection all the weight to which it can ever be entitled. And first it may be justly remarked, that the objection implies a state of things not very disastrous, for if we have a surplus of agricultural productions on hand, which the want of facilities for transportation will not permit us to carry away, we shall, at least, be strangers to want and starvation, unless we should unfortunately assimilate ourselves to a certain stupid animal, which is said to have starved between two stacks of hay. That community which is plentifully supplied with every thing that can be produced in our county cannot be said to be very legitimate subject of commiseration. It will be found on strict examination, that all our wants, which cannot be supplied by the productions of our own climate, are merely artificial; and there is little doubt, an entire inability to supply some portion of them, would, in the end, produce most salutary effects.—The State of Vermont, in which the standard of wealth, intelligence, and comfort, does not suffer in comparison with any other State in the Union, is more isolated and remote from the seaboard than we are, and there is nothing which she has accomplished, that is not within the reach of our exertion. But there is still another view of this subject, most clearly indicated by the march of improvement everywhere in progress. No event yet wrought in futurity, is more certain, than that the iron horse will yet be seen in Aroostook County, pulling and tugging in his daily transit to and from our nearest seaports, hardly able, with all his incredible strength and speed, to supply the myriads of mouths, along the whole line of our extended coast, with the unrivaled potatoes of the East. You may deem this picture a little imaginative, but there are those who now hear me, that will realize its fulfillment. There is much to hope in the future prospects of the farmers of this county, and though a series of misfortunes have befallen our crops for a few past years, not by any means necessary or even peculiar disadvantages of our climate, there is a reward in store for those who do not let these things move them. To young men, who have good sense enough to appreciate the advantages of a pursuit, which holds out a sure guaranty of independence and competency, this country possesses peculiar inducements. Let twenty young men of proper and industrious habits now settle upon lands in this county, and an equal number of like good habits at the same time repair to any of our cities, with a view to obtain employment as merchants' clerks, or in some other manner which they may think more dignified and genteel than the drudgery of the farm. Look at those two classes of young men, twenty years hence, and what will then be their comparative situation? Perhaps one, among the city adventurers, may have become wealthy—two or three may be in the enjoyment of a decent competency—the others have either fallen victims to the contagious influence of gaming, idleness and debauchery, or been overwhelmed and ruined by the numerous revolutions inseparably incident to commerce—while the other class, less exposed to the allurements of vice, are pursuing the even tenor of their way, and probably, with two or three exceptions, would be found in the contented enjoyment of a competency which the troubled waters of commercial strife could neither overwhelm, or drown. Again let us slightly waive this view, and suppose that the twenty young men, instead of repairing to some commercial mart, go to the great, far famed and boasted West, and see twenty years hence how many of them have fallen victims to the diseases of the climate, and contributed their flesh and bones to enrich their already fertile prairies. Heaven has provided no place on earth, to which man does not make some objection; but Aroostook County, though in truth it has some faults, will yet be the Banner Agricultural County of Maine. We are now but beginning to develop its resources. By forming ourselves into a society and body corporate, we have, as it were, spoken into existence a new being, who steps forward and assumes the guardian care of the agricultural interest of this county. To your careful hands it is now committed—a mere banding, in swaddling clothes. Let it be nursed with an assiduity and attention which its importance demands.

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It is among the strange things in this world, I

HEROIC. Passed Midshipman Ladd, of this town, who is now stationed at Tampico, won great praise and honor at a fire which broke out in that city not long since. A beautiful Mexican girl appeared on the top of a house that was enveloped in flames. He succeeded in getting to her, amid the flames and smoke, and brought her off safely, by lowering himself and prize from the roof by means of a rope that he carried with him. The Yankees are real salamanders when beauty and innocence are to be rescued from danger.

MEETING OF THE MAINE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY was adjourned to Thursday. Let the friends of raising good fruit and us not forget to attend.

MR. TABOR'S ADDRESS. Our readers will find an excellent address, by Mr. Tabor of Houlton, delivered before the Aroostook Co. Ag. Society, at their Show and Fair, last fall. It is full of good sentiment and advice and well worth a perusal.

CORN SHELLERS. The cornsheller the we mentioned the other day, meets with approval by the farmers. A few of them are for sale at this office.

The amount of butter and cheese offered for premiums was small, but the butter very good, and the cheese quite passable. This an excellent grazing country, and butter and cheese could be made to as great advantage here, as in any part of New England.

Several specimens of domestic manufactures were offered, and quite a variety of cow work, some of which was very beautiful.

As the several committees have furnished with specimens, we are enabled to

SIMMONS' DAGUERROTYPES.—We have examined specimens of Daguerrotype miniatures, taken at Winthrop, by C. Simmons of Augusta. They are first rate, and of perfection of the likeness, and the clear distinct manner in which the lineaments are developed, prove, not only the excellence of this mode of taking portraits, but the skill of the artist, who is so successful in his practice.

The Indian appropriation bill was taken up by the committee of the whole, reported to the House and passed.

The House went into committee of the whole on the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. Culver addressed the committee, Mr. Sawyer followed.

The committee rose, reported progress and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JAN. 2

In the Senate, twenty-six abolition

A Temperance man in this city, a few nights since, had a bottle of asafetida thrown through one of the double windows of his house, in his sitting room. There may be argument as to such conduct, but there are a great many people in the community so obtuse as not to be able to perceive R. (Portland Argos.

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The Muse.

RURAL WINTER SKETCH.

BY REV. R. HOYT.

The blessed snow has come again,
The early gray
Taps at the chamber's window-pane,
And seems to say
"Break, break from the chamber's chain,
Away—away!"

Along the air
Of winds upon their battle-ground,
But gently there
The snow is falling—all around
How fair—how fair!

The second dale would manure!
Faintest snow
Tree, shrub, and lawn, and lonely glade
Have cast their green
And joined the earth's array,
So white and clean.

Even the old paths that hold the hare
And the old gate,
Forthright and the planted way
And age-reared,
High caped, and plumed like white horses,
Stand there in state.

The drifts are hanging by the eaves,
The snows, the snows,
The hay-stacks have become a hill,
All covered with the snow,
The wagon, loaded for the mill
The sled before.

Maria brings the water pail,
But where's the well?
Like magic of a fairy,
Most strange to tell,
All vanished—cure, and crack, and rail—
How deep it fell!

The wood-pile too is playing hide;
The axe—the hoe,
The kennel of that friend so tried—
(The old watch-dog)
The grinning statue by its side,
All now in snow.

The bustling crowd looks out aghast
From his high shed:
No spot to scratch him a repast;
Up curves the wind,
Starts the dull hammer with a blast,
And back to bed.

Old drowsy dobbie, at the cell,
Amazed, awakes
Out from the window of his stall
A view he takes
While thick and faster seem to fall
The silent flakes.

The barn-yard gales, moaning, chime
Their moving notes,
Like Mennon's music of old time—
That voice of stone!
So muffled they—and so sublime
Their solemn tones.

Good fidds has called the younger folk
To dress below;
Full welcome was the word he spoke—
Down, down, they go,
The snow—the snow!
Now rises from around the fire
A pleasant stir.

Ye giddy sons of mirth retire!
And ye profane
A hymn to the Eternal Rite
Goes up again.
The patriarchal flock divine,
Upon the knee,
Open wide the gates of Judah shine—
(Sweet music is broken)
How each heart beats with such fair line,
On foot to the Eternal Rite
Goes up again.

The patriarchal flock divine,
Upon the knee,
Open wide the gates of Judah shine—
(Sweet music is broken)
How each heart beats with such fair line,
On foot to the Eternal Rite
Goes up again.

Now sings the kettle over the blaze;
The buckwheat leaps;
Rare Mocha, with an Arab's praise,
Sweet Sassafras steeps;
The old round stand her robes, and
Out it leaps.

Unerring precepts declare
The banquet near;
Soon, busy appetites are there;
And disappear
The glories of the simple fare,
With thanks sincere.

Now let the busy day begin—
To roll the clock
Forth hastes the farm-boy, and brings in
The brush to burn—
Sweep, shovel, saw, and axe, and spin,
Till night's return.

To deliver his thrashing John must lie;
His sturdy horse
Can all the subtle damp drift;
How waxes he through;
While fidds the trumpet, slow and shy,
His track pursues.

Each to his horse's allotted care:
To shell the corn;
The broken harness to repair;
The sleigh's repairs;
So cheerful—tranquil—amused—fair,
The winter morn.

The Story-Teller.

[Written for the Maine Farmer.]

THE SABLE HUNTERS.

BY A BACKWOODSMAN.

The whole northern and western frontier
of Maine was formerly, and is, to some ex-
tent, even now, the favorite resort of the
little animal so much valued for its fur, called
the Sable. The energetic and hardy back-
woodsmen of our State have always com-
bined their multiplied labors with the
"axe and brand," the pursuit of hunting and
trapping, in the spring and autumn, on ac-
count of the quick returns and ready cash
which rewarded their labors.

Perhaps the pursuit is attended with more
hardship and danger than any other, follow-
ing, as it necessarily must, by the various
portions of the year in which we experience
the most inclement weather. In the winter,
the trapper is obliged to tramp through snow
and rain, regardless, alike, of cold and wet,
with only a slight subsidence of the most
ordinary food, unenlivened with the prospect
of finding a snug fire and comfortable supper,
etc., which cheer the hearts and keep up the
spirits of those who journey among human
kind. His most cheerful prospect is, that
as he goes to "look his traps," he may find
as many sable as he can carry, and that night
may overtake him in the vicinity of some
rival, where he can obtain water and a good
supply of camp wood.

Arrived at the spot where he designs to
spend the night, the hunter, having divested
himself of his pack, clears away the snow
with his hands, and prepares to kindle a
fire. If he does not find some stub of a tree,
served in from the extraneous effects of the
rains, and whose fibres have been reduced, by
time, to a sort of powdery tinder, he searches
for a green cedar, the inner bark of which is
always tender, and crushing it in his hands, he
applies it to the bit of *spunk* which has been
ignited by the friction of flint and steel, and
with a cautious, steady breath, fans it into a
glowing flame. A thick hedge of evergreens
is then planted in the snow, in a sort of oval
semicircle, directly in front of the fire—with-
in which, after spreading a coat of fine boughs
upon the ground, the hunter reclines. The
cutting of camp wood, the culinary prepara-
tions for the evening meal, and the thawing
and skinning of the frozen sable which may
have been collected during the day, give him
sufficient occupation till the arrival of the
usual hour of repose; when he enjoys such
sleep as those only know, who have camped
down with a roaring fire at their feet, a bed
of hemlock, and a blanket stretched over-
board for a canopy.

But in spite of all the toil and hardship
attendant upon such a life, men are not want-

ing, who will voluntarily undertake it, and
share in all its privations, long after the
stratified circumstances, which might have
impelled them to such a life in early days,
have passed away. There is a kind of wild
restraint, a perfect freedom from all the
restraints of conventional life, an individuality
of character, a bounding elasticity of spirit,
felt by the poorest hunter, when launched
fairly into the wilderness, beyond the bounds
of civilization, that the richest denizen of
cities never knew. He trusts in God and his
own right arm!

I have been led almost unconsciously into
this preamble, by the suggestions of my
own experience, when my object at the com-
mencement was to record the tragical fate of
a gentleman whose passion for hunting only
ended with his life, and whose name is still
cherished in fond remembrance among his
associates.

About seventeen years ago, two men, fully
equipped for a six weeks' hunt, left the little
settlement at the Forks of the Kennebec, and
struck into the northern wilderness. Their
supplies were placed upon light, narrow
sleds, which they drew themselves.—One
of these was Capt. P., a tall, manly fel-
low, of frank bearing, about thirty-five
years of age, generally respected and beloved
by his fellow townsmen, by whose suffrage he
had been elevated to several public and im-
portant trusts. He was a good comrade, and
as a keen hunter admitted no superior. The
other, was also a tall, athletic fellow, with
sandy hair, a face somewhat freckled, an eye
like a hawk, and a quickness and activity in
each limb, which told the observer, at once,
of the tough and wiry sinews which animated
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wiry sinews which animated him. He was a
good comrade, and as a keen hunter admit-
ted no superior. The other, was also a tall,
athletic fellow, with sandy hair, a face some-
what freckled, an eye like a hawk, and a
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